GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:468
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
CHINESE STAND ON SIKKIM
BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;DINESH CHANDRA YADAV

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has not recognised Sikkim as an integral part of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether China has recently listed Sikkim among the Asian Nations on its official website;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government at diplomatic level in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)-(b): China has not yet recognised Sikkim as an integral part of India. Chinese official maps continue to depict Sikkim as a separate territory outside India.

(c)-(d): Yes, Sir. The official web-site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China states that the `Chinese Government does not recognize the illegal annexation of Sikkim`.

(e) We have taken up with the Chinese side the issue of their incorrect depiction of Sikkim. We have pointed out that their position on Sikkim, an issue related to India`s sovereignty and territorial integrity, is not in conformity with their own stated objective of seeking goodwill and friendship with India, and is not in keeping with the principles of Panchsheel. It gives rise to misgivings in the minds of the Indian people, Parliament and Government and adversely affects the process of building trust and confidence. We have also conveyed to the Chinese side that we expect them to acknowledge the reality of Sikkim as an integral part of India.This would help promote development of friendly, cooperative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relations between our two countries.